

PN  
6519  
.H5  
W4

Weingarten

Yiddish Proverbs



# YIDDISH PROVERBS

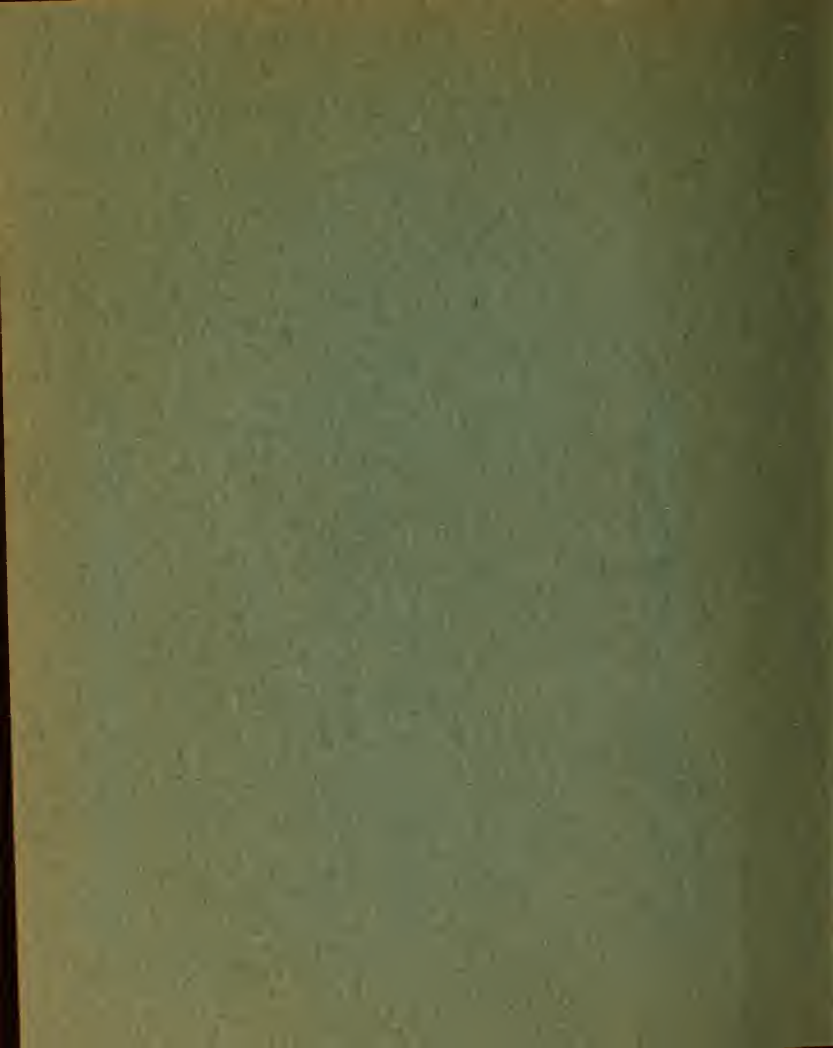
SELECTED AND TRANSLATED

by

JOSEPH A. WEINGARTEN

NEW YORK

1 9 4 1



# YIDDISH PROVERBS

SELECTED AND TRANSLATED

by

JOSEPH A. WEINGARTEN

NEW YORK

1 9 4 1

Copyright 1941  
by  
JOSEPH A. WEINGARTEN

PN


6519

H5

W4

*Dedicated to an invincible,  
unconquerable spirit — a  
fountain of youth . . .*

*To My Mother*



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from  
LYRASIS Members and Sloan Foundation

<http://archive.org/details/yiddish00wein>



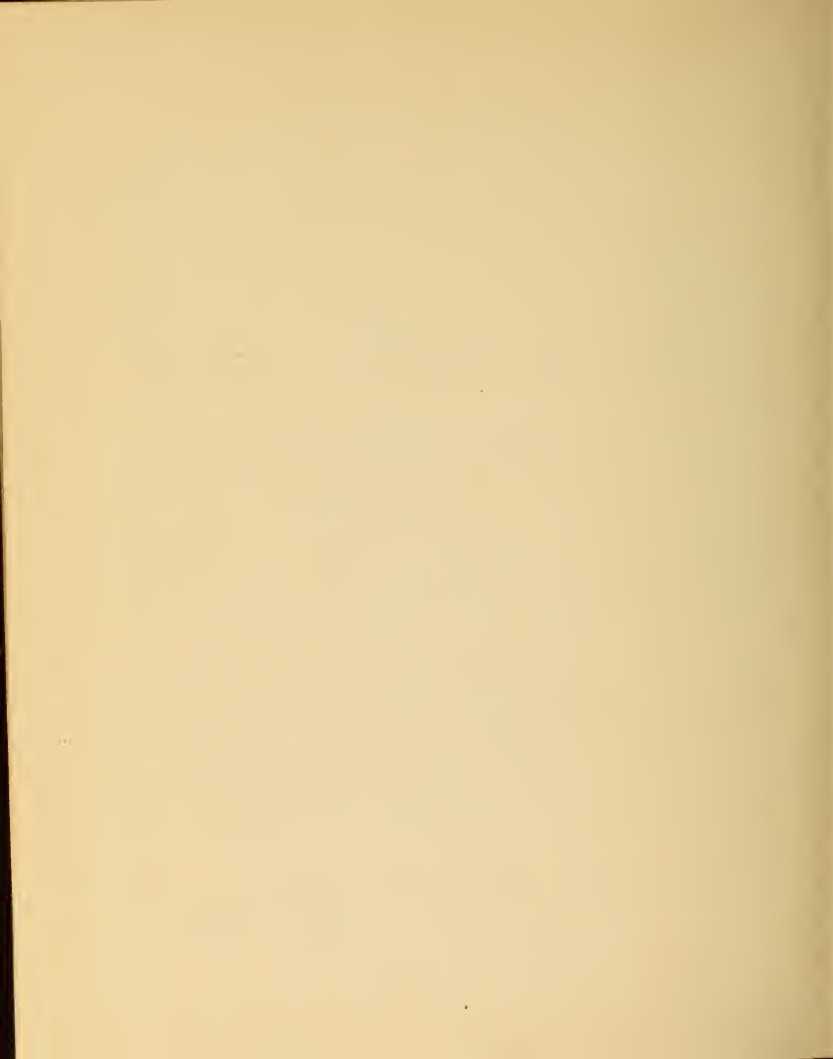
## FOREWORD.

This booklet is practically the first attempt to give to the English reader a collection of Yiddish proverbs. I have attempted to garner a selection which will best show the characteristics of the Jewish people.

I fully realize that there are faults both in commission and in omission. This is not meant as an excuse. It is rather meant as an encouragement for others to continue in this much neglected field.

Much, much more can and ought to be done. I have shown the way. Continue with works of this kind. God-speed to you all.

THE AUTHOR,



For saying Amen one is not slapped.

Even an angel can't do two things at the same time.

The Angel of Death has many eyes.

Death has a watchful eye. (Russian)

From death one cannot hide. (Russian)

The Angel of Death does not look at the calendar.

Death keeps no calendar. (English)

Death has no almanack. (Russian)

The Angel of Death slays and remains justified.

We anger God by our sins; people, by our virtues.

One man has no appetite for food, while another has no food for his appetite.

Poor men seek meat for their stomachs; rich men

stomachs for their meat. (English)

She can even argue with the Angel of Death.

Said of a woman who cannot be intimidated.

He can talk the king off his throne. (Dutch)

Better to ask ten times than to err once.

Better ask twice than go wrong once. (German)

Better ask than go astray. (Italian)

Ask your enemy for counsel and do the reverse.

When an old bachelor dies, the girls are revenged.

When one bangs upon the table, the scissors reply.

Said of one who has a guilty conscience.

A bargain from a thief.

When one buys something very cheaply.

A bachelor shouldn't be a match-maker.

A bachelor is never sent as a "go-between." (Russ.)

In time even a bear will learn to dance.

Give the bear a wife and he, too, will cease dancing.

When your beard burns, your mouth is hot.

One beggar can not be at two fairs.

Bind me hand and foot—but throw me amongst my own people.

Tie me hand and foot, and throw me among my own.

(Italian)

A bird is recognized by its feathers.

They even have bird's-milk.

Said of people who have everything.

If you can't bite, don't bare your teeth.

He who is blind should not play cards.

Even a blind hen sometimes finds a grain.

A blind man may sometimes shoot a crow. (Dutch)

A blind hen also finds a grain of barley and a drunkard a wife. (Estonian)

A blind pigeon may sometimes find a grain of wheat.  
Even the blind gets by chance a bit of fat into his spoon. (Finnish)

Even the blind may chance to find a horseshoe.  
(German)

When one blind man leads another, both fall into a pit.

The blind man has eyes in the tips of his fingers.

Blood is no water.

A blow passes; a word endures.

Better a rich boarder than a poor landlord.

Borscht and bread make the cheeks red.

Cheese and bread make the cheeks red. (German)

Salt and bread maketh cheeks red. (Latin)

For borscht you need no teeth.

Everything can be bought for money—except wisdom.

When a box on the ears does not help take hold of the whip.

Where brain is needed, brawn will not help.

What for one is bread, is for another death.  
What is food for some is poison to others. (Latin)

He who has bread will find a knife.

He is throwing away bread and seeking crumbs.

When you have bread, do not look for cake. (Polish)

Break open a roll and you will find a Jew.

As you brew, so shall you drink.

As you make your bed so will you lie on it.

(Russian)

As you brew, so you drink. (Scottish)

He who has butter on the head should not walk in the sun.

He is not fit to be a baker whose head is  
made of butter. (Danish)

People with wax heads shouldn't walk in the sun.  
(English)

Be not a baker if your head be of butter. (Spanish)

Dress a broom—it will also look pretty.

Call me "dog, devil, man"—but say something!

If I were to sell candles, the sun would never set.

If the unlucky man were to trade in winding sheets,  
no one would die. (Arabic)

Are you a cantor? Then sing; are you a



priest? Then ring.

If you are a mallet, beat; if you are a peg, endure.

A cat or a turkey as long as it's a fowl  
for the Sabbath.

A cat should not be sent for butter.

Do not make a cat for a waiter.

Even a cat may look at the king.

Wherever you throw the cat, it lands upon  
its feet.

You cannot take back from a cemetery.

Death and the cloister give back nothing. (German)

He who changes his location, changes his  
luck.

Who changes country changes luck. (Italian)

Whatever (is) cheap, is dear.

Rather the child should cry than the

parents.

Better the children should be brought up and beaten,  
rather than have them cause their parents shame  
and sorrow.

He who does not harden his heart will not educate  
his son. (Arabic)

Don't name your child before it's born.

Better give your child with a warm hand  
than with a cold hand.

Children and fools tell the truth.

Children, imbeciles and drunkards speak the truth.  
(Bulgarian)

Three speak the truth: fools, children  
and drunkards. (German)

Fools and children speak the truth. (Spanish)

Little children, little worries; big children,  
big worries.

Small children eat porridge, big ones

eat their parents' hearts. (Czech)

Small children stamp on your lap,

big ones on your heart. (Czech)

A little child weighs on your knee,

a big one on your heart. (Estonian)

The clothes of other people do not warm us.

A neighbor's stove does not warm. (Russian)

He who comes first, grinds first.

The first in the boat has the choice of the oars.

(Dutch)

He gets first milled who comes first to the mill.

(Finnish)

For those who come late—the bones. (Latin)

A guilty conscience is a snake in the heart.

A dead cow gives no milk.

Are you a cow? Eat straw.

'Tis easier to know ten countries than one

man.

It costs no money to ask.

As long as the cow can be milked, it is not brought to the slaughterer.

Don't cry "Hupp" until you have jumped over the puddle.

Never cry hallo till you are out of the woods.

When the church bells are rung it is holiday.

Every city has its idiot.

He who seeks the daughter must begin with the mother.

He who seeks the daughter, flatters the mother.

He that would the daughter win, must with the mother first begin. (English)

Consider the mother, woo the daughter. (Bulgarian)

He who flatters the mother will hug the daughter.

(Estonian)

The daughter is scolded and the daughter-in-law is meant.

He who loses a daughter does not bewail the dowry.

He who loses the camel does not seek the saddle.

(Arabic)

As the dead eat—such is their appearance.

Death is not choosy.

After death, the secret is out.

i.e. What property the deceased left.

Only death is gratis; yet, it costs a life.

We do not even get death free of charge,

for it costs us a life. (Russian)

The deceased is lamented seven days; the

fool, a lifetime.

A defect—the bride is too pretty..

Usually said when some one is seeking non-existent faults.

The devil has the key to his money.

Everyone has his dirt-pile before his house.

i.e. Everyone has his own worries.

Everyone has his hanged man on his threshold.

(Italian)

A doctor can not heal himself.

Don't ask the doctor—ask the patient.

Consult the patient, not the physician. (Arabic)

Ask the patient, not the doctor where the pain is.

(Polish)

Let a dog on to the bench and he will jump on the table.

When your comrades call you "donkey"

place a saddle upon your back.

When all men say you are an ass, it is time to bray.

(English) (Spanish)

A donkey is known by his long ears; a fool  
by his long tongue.

If the door is not opened for the poor, it will  
be opened for the doctor.

Good dunnors are bad payers.

An eagle does not catch flies.

A lion doesn't catch mice. (Russian)

What the earth covers is forgotten.

The end of the thief is the gallows.

Every man is blind about himself.

• If one is fated to drown—it can happen in  
a spoonful of water.

No enemy can do what a person can do to

himself.

Everywhere is one world.

The eye tells what the heart means.

The eye is small, yet it sees the whole world.

A single eye in the head must also sleep.

After a festival-day only debts and dirty dishes remain.

Five fingers in one hand—and they are not alike.

Said about children of the same parents who are different in appearance, character, etc.

Fire is a thief.

Even a flea can bite.

It is easier to guard a sack of fleas than a maiden in love.



A sackfull of fleas is easier to watch than a woman.  
It is easier to watch over one hundred fleas than one  
young girl. (Polish)

Even the best foods become unbearable.  
Even butter and honey make you sick in time.  
(Bulgarian)

Too much honey is bitter. (Latin)

A foolish head never grays.

A fool's head never whitens. (French)

A fool goes to the bathhouse and forgets to  
wash his face.

When the fool holds the cow by the horns,  
the wise man can milk her.

When a fool is sent to market, all the mer-  
chants are happy.

If fools went not to market bad wares would not be  
sold. (English)

If fools did not go to markets, the rubbish

would never be sold. (Spanish)

A fool can ask more questions than ten wise men can answer.

Every fool is wise for himself.

A fool is his own informer.

A fool has a fine world.

What does a fool do? He measures water with a sieve.

Fools and weeds grow without rain.

A fool should not be shown an unfinished job.

Fools and children should not see half-done work.

The forest itself will yield the handle for the axe.

From the midst of the wood the hatchet  
gets its handle. (German)

He who lives without forethought dies  
without confession.

One friend is better than ten relatives.

One old friend is better than two new ones.

Your friend also has a friend.

Be wary of telling your secrets even to your friends.

A general or a corporal—so long as it is  
"ral".

When the girl can't dance, she claims that  
the musicians can't play.

A pretty girl is half the dowry.

A beautiful maid carries her dowry on her face.

(German)

Beauty is a woman's best dowry. (German)

An ugly girl shouldn't be kissed.

Where many go, no grass will grow.

Every goat is pleased with his bell.

Every fool is pleased with his bauble. (English)

A goat also has a beard—but still is no Rabbi.

If the beard were all, the goat might preach. (Danish)

If the beard were all, the goat would be the winner.

(Danish)

The brains don't lie in the beard. (English)

The beard does not make the philosopher. (Italian)

He who runs away from a full glass is an ass.

God sits above and pairs below.

God punishes with one hand and heals with the other.

When God wills it—even a broom will shoot.

If God wills, even a cock will lay an egg. (Polish)

God is one—what he does is seen by none.

To live like God in Odessa.

i.e to live in fine style.

God is a father of orphans.

A child is caressed by its mother, but an orphan is caressed by God. (Polish)

God sends the remedy before the wound.

In the name of God—with a bundle of straw.

All "God-Forbids" are possible.

It is not a goat; it will not escape.

Gold glitters even in the mud.

The pearl is found in mud. (Latin)

Better a false "good-morning" than a true  
"to hell."

According to the "good morning" so is the  
"good year."

When one is greeted with a "good morning," the  
usual reply is "good year."

When goods lie long, the price is forgotten.

The best grain grows on black earth.

i.e. Simple people often have the best hearts.

Black earth gives white bread. (Swedish)

The best guarantor is one's own pocket.

A guest for a while, sees for a mile.

Strange eyes see more than one's own. (Swedish)

Unbidden guests are placed behind the  
stove.

An unbidden guest knoweth not where to sit.

(English)

If the grandmother had a beard she would  
be a grandfather.

If my aunt had wheels she might be an omnibus.

(Dutch)

Only in the grave one has peace.

Three things grow over night: profit, rent  
and daughters.

Short hair is quickly brushed.

A short horse is soon curried. (English)

Other people's hands are only useful for  
poking the fire.

It is good to strike the serpent's head

with your enemy's hand.

To draw the snake out of the hole with

another's hand. (Spanish)

To take out a burning coal with another's hand.

(Spanish)

Better "I have" than "I had".

"I have had" is a poor man. (German)

"I have, I have," is of use; "I had, I had"

what good is that? (Persian)

"I haven't got" is the best excuse.

If you have no hand you can not shake a fist.

What is the use of the grey head, when the brains are green?

Grey head—a child's reason. (Estonian)

One hand washes the other.

Off with the head—away with the pain.

He who hasn't in his head, must have in his feet.

You can not hide from God.

The deeds of men never escape the eyes of God.  
(Latin)

Hire a helper and do it yourself.

The Holy Temple was not built in a day.



Honor is found at the butcher's.

Honor is like a shadow; the more one  
chases it, the further it runs away.

Hope does not fill one's stomach.

Hope is the poor man's bread. (English)

He who lives on hope dies hungry. (Turkish)

A horse has a large head—let him worry.

Old horses often carry the hides of the  
young.

Old people often survive the young.

Why seek honey when sugar is sweet.

Give me honey-cake, and call me fool.

Fools are said to love sweets.

Even one hour in Paradise is good.

He who moves into a dilapidated house is  
preparing a grave for himself.

When buying a house, inquire after the neighbors.

Choose your neighbor before your house and your  
companion before (taking) the road. (Arabian)

Before thou askest about the house,  
ask about the neighbor. (Arabian)

The real art of divination lies in the choice of  
neighbors, not of houses. (Chinese)

Buy not the house, buy the neighbour. (Russian)

To get rid of the hump from one's shoulders.  
Usually said of a daughter that has been married.

He who has the hunch back, must carry it.

Hunger is an insistent landlord.

Hunger is a creditor from whom one cannot escape.  
(Czech) (German)

Hunger knows no commandment.

He who does not want to hunger on the  
Sabbath, must not be idle in week days.

Better one straw husband than ten golden children.

Between husband and wife only God should judge.

Idle hands destroy the walls.

The idler becomes busy when all go to sleep.

An ignorant fellow should nat pray loudly.  
All will hear his mistakes.

An informer is hung by the tongue.  
Because he sinned with his tongue.

He who comes for the inheritance, may find himself paying funeral expenses.

He that goes for wool may chance to  
come home shorn. (Scottish)

Every innkeeper praises his beer.

The melon-seller always declares his melons sweet.  
(Chinese)

Whatever will happen to all Israel, will  
happen to Mr. Israel.

He who does not give Jacob will give Esau.  
From jealousy comes hatred.

Better a Jew without a beard than a beard  
without a Jew.

When a Jew is a fool, he is a big fool.

There is no Jewish nunnery.

Jewish wealth is like a March snow.

Joys for an ell, woes for a mile.

Pleasure is short-lived while woes are interminable.

A key of gold opens all doors.

All doors are opened by a golden key. (Estonian)

A golden key fits every door. (Polish)

He who seeks to know everything, grows old quickly.

He will die before he is old who is wise before his time. (Latin)

Do not know too much or you will grow old. (Russ.)

What I do not know, will not harm me.

Knowledge is the best merchandise.

Learning is better than goods. (Moorish)

When you laugh, all see; when you weep, no one sees.

One learns wisdom until 70 years and dies a fool.

Man learns till his death. (Estonian)

A letter can be read and can be sung.

A liar must have a good memory.

A liar ought to lie with memory. (Czech)

Memory in a liar is no more than needs. (Latin)

A lie has no feet.

A lie has short legs. (Estonian)

A lie goes but on one leg. (Irish)

A good lie is sometimes worth money.

He who lies on the ground can not fall.

Who sits on the floor, is not afraid of a fall. (Czech)

He who lies on the ground has no place from which to fall. (Latin)

Who sits on the ground fears no fall. (Slovakian)

A broken glass can't be hurt. (English)

The worst life is better than the best death.

A lock is made only for an honest man.

Look down, and you will know how high you are.

Looking is permitted, but not staring.

Everything should be done within reason.

Love me little, but love me long!

Love is sweet—but goes well with bread.

When luck comes, offer him a chair.

Better an ounce luck than tons of gold.

A drop of fortune is better than a cask of wisdom.

(Latin)

Half an ounce of luck is better than a pound of sense.

(German)

When a maiden weds an old man she  
remains a young widow.

When the maids quarrel the master learns  
about the thefts.

He is the only male in Moscow!

Said ironically about a person who thinks he is  
"the only pebble on the beach."

Man thinks and God winks.

Literally: Man thinks and God laughs.

Man proposes but God disposes. (English)

Man rides and God holds the reins.

Man shoots, but God guides the bullet. (Polish)

Man is not born with a sack.

i.e. We are born empty-handed and must earn  
through work.

We refused to eat Manna, now we must  
eat onions.

The marriage ceremony lasts an hour, but  
the troubles last a life-time.

A wedding lasts a day or two,  
but the misery for ever. (Czech)

One match can set fire to a whole city.

Little sparks kindle great fires. (English)

When there is no meat, one must pick the  
bones.

Had I only mentioned the Messiah.

Good merchandise praises itself.



Every merchant praises his merchandise.

More merchants, more luck; more thieves,  
more rope.

A lazy messenger should be sent only for  
the Angel of Death.

Y'ud be a good messenger to send for Death. (Irish)

The mirror reveals the truth.

When a miser becomes extravagant, he  
eats tarts with his soup.

It is easier to earn money, than to have it.

Money heals all diseases.

Money covers a hundred uglinesses. (Chinese)

The language of money is understood in all countries.

Money is round.

He who goes without money returns with-  
out merchandise.

A moneyless man goes fast through the market.

(English)

Money gone—half gone; courage gone—  
all gone.

Fortune lost, nothing lost; courage lost, much lost;  
honor lost, more lost; soul lost, all lost. (Dutch)

Every morrow brings its sorrow.

The best morsel is given to the worst dog.

There is no bad mother or good death.

A mother is an apron—she covers up her  
children's faults and her husband's shame.

A mother has glass eyes.

When the mother is a cow, the daughter is  
a calf.

When the mouse is satisfied, the flour tastes  
bitter.

Cherries are sour to the glutton blackbird. (French)

Better to-day a mouse, than tomorrow a house.

He who has a wide mouth has a narrow heart.

He that promises too much means nothing. (English)

Promises and pie crusts are made to be broken.

(English)

Long tongue, short hand. (French)

Great boasters, little doers. (French)

Much mouthwork, little heart (German)

If you do not open your mouth, no flies will get in.

A fly cannot enter a mouth that knows

how to keep silence. (Arabic)

A shut mouth catches no flies. (Irish)

A close mouth catches no flies. (Scottish)

A broken nail can not be straightened.

i.e. It is useless to preach to one completely spoiled.

The note does not pay—the person pays.  
A man is better than a pledge. (Chinese)

He who has nothing to lose, can attempt anything.

For nothing, one drinks only water.

Add oil so long the lamp is still burning.

What the old folks chew—the young spew.

One and one makes the sum.

An orphan has many mothers.

He who owns the cow must do the work.

When the ox is dead everyone sharpens his knife.

When the ox falls there are many to skin him.

(Arabic)

An ox has a long tongue and must keep quiet.

What, besides beef, can you expect from  
an ox?

An ox for a penny when there's no penny.

The strongest pain is that which cannot be  
told to others.

With one pair of feet you cannot dance at  
two weddings.

One foot cannot stand on two boats. (Chinese)

Even in Paradise it is no good to be alone.

One is all the better for having company, even if  
one is going to be hanged. (Dutch)

Parents can give a dowry, but not luck.

Better an ugly patch than a beautiful rip.

What does a peasant know about saffron?

Smear the peasant with honey, he still  
smells of the stable.

He is a philanthropist with somebody else's purse.

A pig snatches the best apple.

The worst pig often gets the best pear. (English)

What is the pig doing on the cemetery?

Fried pigeons do not fly into one's mouth.

The pitcher goes so long to the well, until the ear is broken off.

The jug goes to the water till it breaks. (Dutch)

The pitcher carries water until its time arrives.

(German)

Plants are often torn out with the weeds.

Do not point a stick at a whipped cur.

Poor and rich—all alike.

Really poor is only he who lacks brains.

When the poor man eats a hen, either he

is sick . . . or the hen.

All poor people are kind-hearted.

The poorer, the more generous. (Russian)

Every pot finds its cover.

Like pot, like cover. (Dutch)

A pound must stand aside for the pud.

Pud—40 lbs. The lesser must make way for the greater.

Poverty in a home is worse than fifty plagues.

Poverty is brother to laziness.

Poverty and pride do not go together.

A lord's heart and a beggar's purse agree not.

Of empty stomach, yet he chews incense. (Arabic)

Pride and poverty are ill met, yet often seen together.

(English)

A proud heart and a beggar's purse agree not well

together. (English)

Pride that dines on vanity, sups with contempt.

(Moorish)

Pride and laziness need much upholding. (Scottish)

Poverty is no shame, but no great honor.

Poverty first makes its appearance on the face.

The prayer goes up and the blessing comes down.

When the prophet Elijah is the coachman, one travels fast.

To promise and to love cost no money.

He who provided us with teeth will also provide bread.

He who provided the fish will also provide pepper.



Eat no pudding and you won't need any  
whiskey.

You can not be punished with two whips.

A heavy purse makes a light heart.

Heavy purses and light hearts can sustain much.

(Dutch)

A purse without money is just a piece of  
leather.

Do not put all your cheese into one fritter.

A quarrel is like a skin-disease; the more  
one scratches, the more it itches.

When two (people) quarrel, the third grabs  
the hat.

When two dogs fight for a bone a third runs off  
with it. (Dutch)

One recognizes the duck by its pecking.

Don't be my relative, and don't tear my boots.

True remorse is better than a hundred strokes of the lash.

Revenge is half a consolation.

The rich man sleeps and his profits increase.

Rip and sew—but stay not idle.

In a large river, large fish swim.

The longest road is that to the pocket.

A ruble is no money and an ignorant fellow is no companion.

One does not say "Oh!" when there is no woe (literally: sting).

Scratching and lending help only for a

while.

He is searching for yesterday.

He who seeks, finds.

Do not sell the hide of the bear before he's caught.

Do not measure the tail of a live wolf. (Bulgarian)

Don't boil eggs until the hen has laid them. (Estonian)

Do not eat bread which is still growing. (Finnish)

Don't say grace for your meat till you've got it. (Irish)

Don't gut your fish till you get them. (Scottish)

Send your ears in the streets.

To hear what the world is saying about you.

Servants are true, so long they are new.

As one is at seven, so one is at seventy.

When the sheep are sheared, the lambs tremble.

There are more Shochtim (slaughterers)  
than chickens.

No one knows whom the shoe is pinching.  
He alone knows the heat of the bath who has  
entered it. (Arabic)

One does not know where his neighbor's  
boot pinches. (Czech)

All shoemakers go barefoot.

The locksmith's wife has open cabinets. (Russian)

You can not shut the mouths of people.

You cannot sew up people's mouths. (Slovakian)

Better ten times sick than once dead.

To a sick person even a fly on the wall may  
be annoying.

To a sick man even honey tastes bitter. (Russian)

A sick person should be asked; a well one  
—given.

The sick are asked, the healthy are given.

(Bulgarian)

Long sickness—sure death.

A long disease does not always tell a lie. (Irish)

To a long illness the spade is the end. (Slovenian)

He who sins when drunk will expiate when sober.

He who sinks catches on to a straw.

He that falls in the sea takes hold of a serpent

to be saved. (Turkish)

He who sits at home, does not tear any boots.

He who sleeps does not sin.

He who goes to sleep with dogs, will wake up with fleas.

He who sleeps in a pond wakes up

cousin to the frogs. (Arabic)

He who sleeps in a kennel will get up flea-ridden.

(Polish)

Better an honest smack than a false kiss.

The smaller the crowd, the bigger the feast.

What is on the sober man's lung, is on  
the drunkard's tongue.

The drunkard reveals his innermost thoughts.

In wine, (there is) truth. (Latin)

Enter wine, exit secret. (Hebrew)

Wine and children speak the truth. (Slovakian)

The soul cannot be spat out.

One must go on despite hard luck and misfortune.

He who can not sow will not reap.

I can't even spare you a sigh.

The efforts of the poor are his tears. (Arabic)

As the speech, so is the payment.

What is the use of my speaking Polish, if  
I'm not permitted into the castle.

Spit in a gypsy's face—he will say that it  
is raining.

With a spoon you can not empty the ocean.  
One cannot dig a well with a needle. (Turkish)

What is the use of spurs when you can not  
ride.

Don't steal and don't fast.

A mouth that prays, a hand that kills. (Arabic)

For a good stepmother there is a golden  
chair in Paradise.

A stick in hand is worth more than a tongue  
in the mouth.

A kick is better than a tongue-blow. (Breton)

There is no argument equal to that of a stick.

(Spanish)

A stomach has no windows.

A healthy stomach can endure much.

A store is a golden chain.

Any business, though profitable, keeps its owner tied down.

One must stretch according to the corners.

Strength is in the plate.

Where strength is needed, wisdom is of no use.

He swallowed a cat.

As the synagogue, so the Rabbi.

Used in a derogatory sense.

A taker is no giver.

Usually said of Rabbis, sextons, etc.

A hand accustomed to take is far from giving.

(Arabic)



Taxes grow without rain.

Each trumpet has a different tassel.

Thanks can't be put in a purse.

A blessing does not fill the belly. (Irish)

One does not put "Thank you" in one's pocket. (R.)

One cannot make a fur coat from a "Thank you."  
(Russian)

A thief has only one path—his pursuers  
seven.

He who flees keeps to one road;  
the pursuers one hundred. (Bulgarian)

The thief has nine ways, the pursuer one. (Estonian)

When the thief is needed, he is cut down  
from the gallows.

He who has need of the dancer, must carry her shoes.  
(Arabic)

In the presence of a thief mention no  
gallows.

Don't speak of a rope to a child whose father was  
hanged. (Scottish)

In the house of the hanged speak not of ropes.  
(Slovenian)

He cannot even tie the tail of a cat.

Time is the best doctor.

For all ills there are two remedies—time and silence.  
(French)

The best doctor is time, and the most solid wall  
is eternity. (German)

In the garden of time grows the flower of consolation.  
(German)

Time cures the sick man, not the ointment. (Spanish)  
For every wound the ointment of time. (Welsh)

Time enough to bewail your misfortune  
when it is here.

The tongue has no bones.

The tongue has no bones. (Serbian)

The tongue has no bone, yet it crushes. (Turkish)

The tongue is not steel, yet it cuts. (English)

Many trades—few blessings.

Twelve professions, thirteen failures. (Dutch)

A man of many trades begs his bread on Sunday.  
(English)

Twelve occupations, fourteen misfortunes. (French)

(He knows) seven trades, and livelihood is lost.  
(Moorish)

When one has too many trades one dies of hunger.  
(Arabian)

A tree cannot be felled with one stroke.

An oak is not felled at one stroke. (English)

A tree bends only when it is young.

Troubles are to man what rust is to iron.

Truth will appear like oil upon water.  
(English)

Truth and sweet oil always come to the top.

Truth and oil are ever above. (English)

Truth may languish, but never perish. (French)

Near a golden wagon you will find golden  
nails.

Wandered over all lands, and came home  
without shirt or pants.

Wash my fur coat, but don't make it wet.

Do not pour out your dirty water ere you  
have clean water.

Don't spill out your water, before the kwas is here.  
(Russian)

A wealthy man has no children—only heirs.  
The weeping of an heir is laughter under a mask.  
(Latin)

When the wealthy sicken, the poor quicken.  
Literally: When the rich men get sick, they then  
remember the poor, i.e. to give alms.

Even the weather bureau is sometimes right.

Two weddings in one day is the woe and despair of the beggar man.

In the well from which you drank, do not throw any stones.

When the wheels are smeared (i.e. oiled), they do not creak.

Usually said of bribery.

Wherever I sit, there is the front.

Usually said by an important person when he declines to sit up front.

He is whispering secrets to the mice.

When one speaks very softly.

Every "why" has its "therefore".

When the wife wears the pants, the hus-

band rocks the child.

Wisdom is a laggard.

There is no wisdom or brains against bad cards.

With wisdom alone you cannot go to market.

Only a wise man can realize that he is a fool.

He who knows he is a fool is not a big fool.

(Chinese)

Let him worry who has no God for tomorrow.

God will provide.

The greatest worry can't pay the smallest debt.

A thousand cares don't pay one penny of your debt.

(Turkish)

Better 10 worries than 1 worry.

Other people's worries do not rob one's sleep.

He who writes incorrectly, may also read incorrectly.

He who cannot write says that the pen is no good.

A wolf loses his hair but not his nature.

A fox changes his skin but keeps the rogue. (English)

The course of a river is not to be altered. (Latin)

He who has a certain nature will not sell it. (Moorish)

Tell a woman a secret—cut off her tongue.

Women have nine measures of talk.

When wood is chopped splinters fall.

Better one word in time than two ill-timed.

A word will help the wise; a whip won't help the fool.

A nod for a wise man, and a rod for a fool. (English)

Work makes life sweet.

Work is the mother of life. (Slovakian)

The world is a ladder—one goes up, another comes down.

A year is not tied to a stick.

It does not endure forever.

A young person may die—an old person must die.

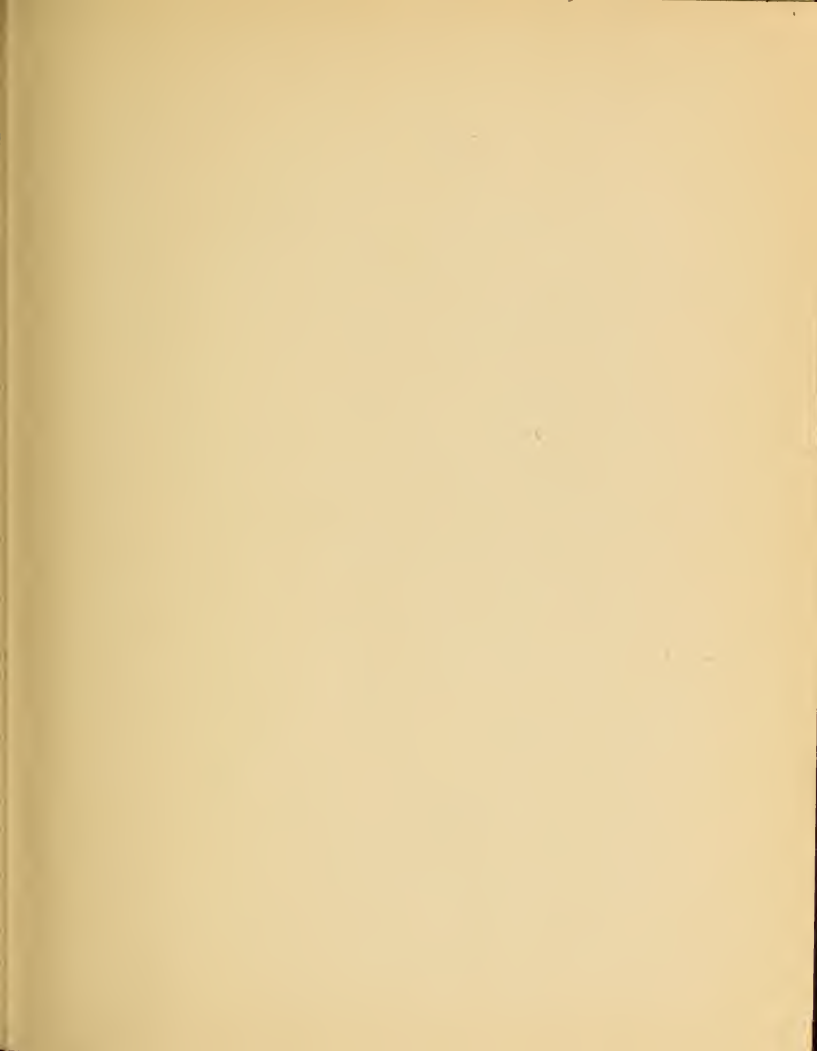
Better a young widow than an old maid.

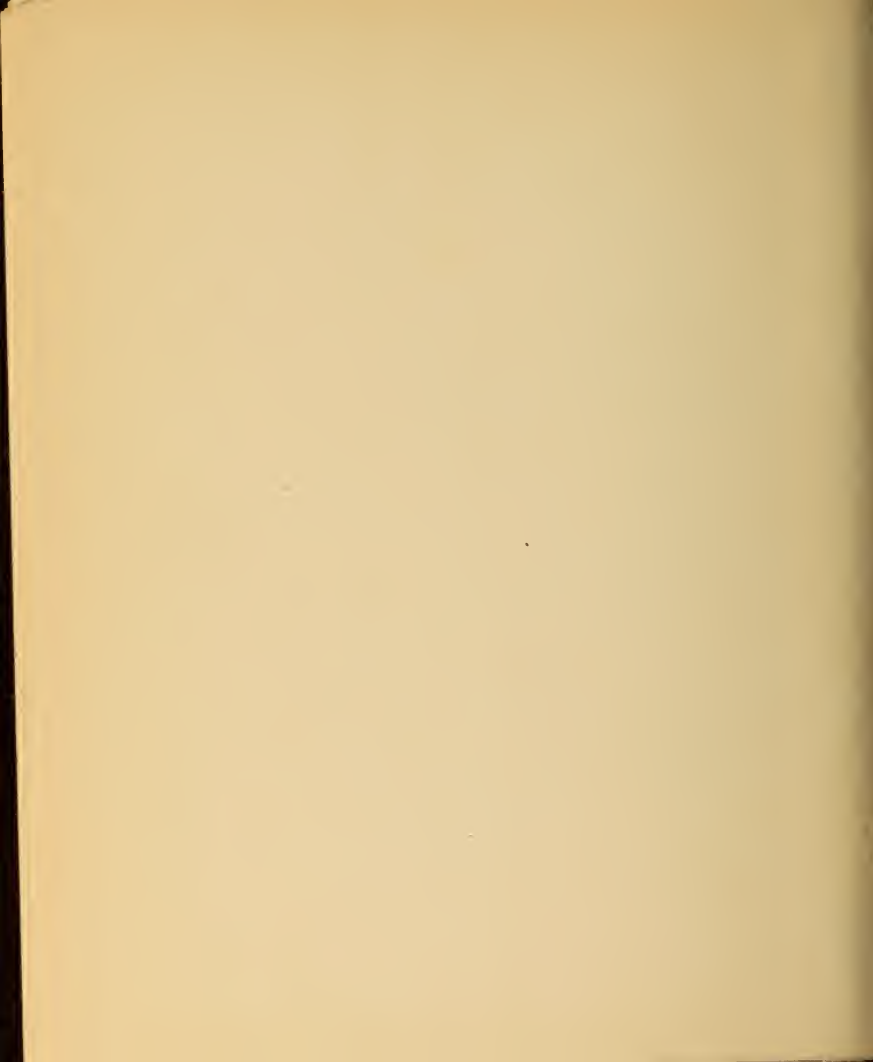
A young wife is like a bird; must be kept in a cage.

















University of  
Connecticut  
Libraries

---



39153029009950

